### CITY OF OAKLAND



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CITY HALL - ONE CITY HALL PLAZA STUL OAK MAYND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the City Manager City Manager JAN 22 1998

(510) 238-3301 TTY/TDD (510) 238-3724

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

September 30, 1997

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Oakland, California

Chairperson De La Fuente and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT:

Presentation of Consultant's Report on the Feasibility of Producing an Oakland-based International Exposition in the Year 2002 and Staff Recommendations

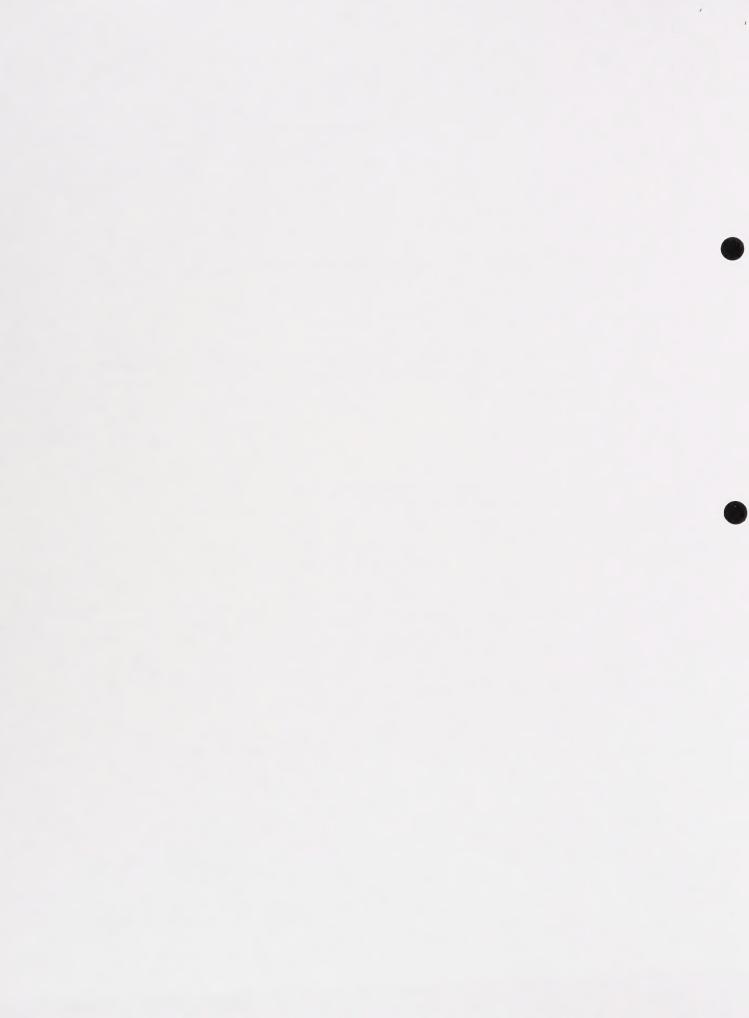
#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In May 1997 Oakland Redevelopment Agency, acting on behalf of the City and Port of Oakland, retained Bay Area Pan Pacific Expo, Inc. (Consultants) to assess the technical, financial and practical feasibility of mounting an Oakland-based international exposition in the year 2002. This memorandum highlights the Consultant's major findings and presents staff recommendations for the next steps in this project.

The Consultants who prepared the estimates and projections presented in this memorandum have seasoned experience developing and implementing international expositions. Nevertheless, staff cautions the Council that these are projections, not prophesy, and many factors, including the commitment of the City and Port to make the decisions that need to be made about the Expo will affect the ultimate success of the event. The Consultants major findings are:

- D. Bay Area demographics, the Region's status as a leading edge business center and premier visitor destination, together with Oakland's role as the transportation hub of the metropolitan area, create very favorable conditions for a successful international exposition on the Oakland waterfront.
- Funding required to mount the event is available without a financial investment (beyond the current feasibility study and the temporary provision of a site) from the City, Port or Oakland Redevelopment Agency, and the Expo would very likely be a profitable venture for Expo promoters and the City of Oakland.

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September 30, 1997

It is feasible to hold the Expo on any one of the three sites under consideration, however, from the point of view of the needs of the Exposition, the Oakland Army Base is the preferred site. Consultants explicitly recognize that the City and Port must consider factors other than the needs of the Expo in making their decision about the best site on which to hold the event.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The City and Port each have contributed \$67,500 to the \$135,000 cost of the Expo feasibility study. No additional fiscal impact, other than the use of staff time, would result from actions recommended in this memorandum.

### **BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION**

Sites: Consultants were asked to evaluated three sites selected by the City and Port of Oakland for their ability to accommodate the requirements of the proposed exposition. The three sites are:

- Oakland Army Base site located south of the I-80 Bay Bridge approach straddling both sides of Maritime Street
- Oakland Coliseum site located west of I-880 immediately south of the 66th Avenue interchange across from the Coliseum
- Oakland Estuary site located west of I-880 between Oak Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue flanking the Estuary

The three sites differ in size, existing conditions, opportunities and constraints. All are slated for eventual redevelopment and reuse. The estimated cost of developing the sites ranges from a low of \$285 million at the Army Base where there are several existing buildings that could be used by the Expo, to a high of \$338 million at the Estuary where there are relatively complex site assembly and environmental issues. Consultants believe that each of the three sites is a feasible location for the Expo, but from the point of view of Expo requirements, the Army Base would be their first choice. The size and estimated development costs of the three sites are summarized in the table below.

### Site Area and Estimated Development Costs

	Area (acres)	Cost (Millions)	Per Acre (Millions)
Army Base	350	\$285	\$0.8
Coliseum	136	\$330	\$2.4
Estuary	87	\$338	\$3.9

Transportation: Each of the proposed sites is served by public transit, although transit access is better, and the number of transit choices greater, at the Army Base and Estuary, than at the Coliseum site. On average, about 150,500 visitors and employees are projected to visit the Expo site each day, with about 45% using private autos or taxies, and about 65% using public transit or chartered buses. Parking for those driving to the Expo site is both a challenge and an economic opportunity. For example, the presence of extra acreage for parking at the Army Base site could provide a lucrative revenue stream at this site. Water transportation would be a major focus of the transportation plan for the Army Base and Estuary sites, but there is insufficient water depth for ferries at the Coliseum site without extensive dredging.

Economic Impact: Consultant's estimate that construction and pre-opening costs of the Expo will be about \$600 million of which about \$450 million will be spend locally stimulating \$1.1 billion in regional output. The undertaking will generate \$136 million in direct payroll expenditures, and \$341 million in total earnings. Construction and pre-opening employment will be 3,000 person-years in direct construction employment, with an indirect impact of 10,000 jobs. The Expo, itself will generate 10,000 direct jobs in the Expo facilities, with an indirect impact of 36,000 jobs during the duration of the event. Government revenue from direct taxes and fees on tourist expenditures will be substantial.

Of the local amounts for construction and pre-opening costs, Oakland could capture a little over \$173 million of direct spending, \$52 million in payroll, and 1,151 direct jobs. Indirect output is estimated to be \$426 million and indirect earnings are estimated at \$129 million, creating indirect employment of 3,873 job. These data for Oakland are summarized in the tables below.

## Construction & Pre-opening Local Expenditures

Facilities	Budget \$'s (millions)	Local Component	Local \$'s (millions)	Oakland Component	Oakland \$'s (millions)
Equipment	\$ 430	80%	\$ 344	40%	\$ 137.6
All Other	\$ 100	50% 75%	\$ 35	25%	\$ 8.8
Total	\$ 600	1370	\$ 454	35%	\$ 26.3 \$ 173

# Construction & Pre-opening Economic Impacts on the City of Oakland

Construction &		
Pre-opening Costs		\$ 173 million
Payroll Component @	30%	
Person-years of		\$ 52 million
Employment @	\$45,000	1,151 jobs
Indirect Impacts		
Output @	2.47 Multiplier	£ 426 'W'
Earnings @	0.75 Multiplier	\$ 426 million
Employment @	22.44 Multiplier	\$ 129 million 3,873 jobs
	7.01	3,073 100\$

Visitors: Consultants expect the Expo to attract about 23 million visitors during its eight months of operation in the year 2002. Much of this attendance would be drawn from the 14 million visitors who will be in the Bay Area for other purposes during the event, and the 9.7 million people who will live within a 2-hour drive of the Expo site in 2002. Unlike many other cities that have staged international events of the this type in an attempt to stimulate tourism, the Bay Area already is the nation's premier visitor destination. This fact, coupled with the generally upscale demographics of this region provide very favorable market conditions for a successful event. The Expo is projected to generate \$2.2 billion of new visitor spending in Northern California, and about \$1.1 billion of new visitor expenditures in the City of Oakland. The Expo, itself, will create about 10,000 new jobs.

Oakland currently has only 2,700 hotel rooms, or about 7% of the Bay Area total. This small stock of quality hotel room capacity restricts Oakland's ability to attract convention business and will restrict the number of Expo visitors who can stay and spend money in Oakland. A major potential benefit of the Expo is that it can be a catalyst for encouraging new hotel development in Oakland which would give a significant long term boost to Oakland's hospitality industry. Consultants believe that the Expo could spur development of another 1,500 to 2,000 hotel rooms which, with the existing stock of hotel rooms, could make it feasible for Oakland to capture about 10% of the new tourist spending created by the Expo. The projected distribution of new visitor expenditures in Oakland is summarized in the table below.

# Projected New Visitor Spending in the City of Oakland

New Tourist Expenditure by Type Hotels & Motels Food & Beverage Retail Local Transportation Entertainment & Recreation  Total  Earnings Jobs	\$ 49.2 million \$ 72.2 million \$ 52.4 million \$ 21.8 million \$ 22.2 million \$ 217.8 million \$ 75.4 million 3,600
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## Projected Total Additional Direct Spending in Oakland

On Site	
Admission & Expenditures at Expo Off Site	\$ 871 million
New Tourist Expenditures  Expenditures by non-Oakland Residents  Total New Expenditures in Oakland	\$ 218 million \$ 52 million \$1,141 million

Financial Feasibility: Consultants assume no financial contributions from the City, Port or Oakland Redevelopment Agency (beyond the cost of the feasibility study just completed and temporary provision of a site for the Expo) in their finding that the Expo is financially feasible. The Consultants' contacts with potential sponsors and investors, many of whom have provided letters stating their interest and potential support, suggest that the \$2 million to \$3 million predevelopment funding needed to organize, design and develop the Expo can be acquired once Oakland selects and committs a site to the project. No matter how strong their interest, no business person is going make a binding financial commitment to the Expo without a committed site. Consultants' analyses of potential sponsor participation and event operating revenues show a significant margin over required investments and operating expenses. Staff caution that these are projections, not prophesy, and that many unknown factors may affect Consultants projections as we attempt to resolve the issues associated with any of the three sites under consideration. In any case, the financial risk of mounting the Exposition will be assumed by its promoters and their investors, not by the City of Oakland.

-6-

September 30, 1997

Staff believe Consultants have fulfilled the terms of their contract with the Oakland Redevelopment Agency and that their findings suggest that it is feasible to mount a successful Oakland-based international exposition. Staff's recommendations layout a "next steps" course of action to advance this project.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Accept the Consultant's report.
- 2. Hold one or more public hearings to provide a forum for the Oakland community to understand the proposed event, obtain answers to their questions, and express their views on the desirability of hosting the event and their preferences among the three proposed sites.
- 3. Select one of the three proposed sites as the City's preferred location for the Expo so that efforts can be focused on a single site to resolve issues and obtain financial commitments.
- 4. Direct staff to resolve the issues affecting use of the preferred site as a venue for the Expo in the year 2002 and report back to Council within 60-days.
- 5. When satisfied that significant issues affecting use of the preferred site can be resolved, direct staff to enter exclusive negotiations with Bay Area Pan Pacific Expo, Inc. for use of the preferred site to mount the Expo, and report the results of these negotiations and staff recommendations to Council within 30-days.

Respectfully submitted,

**KOFI S. BONNER** 

Interim City Manager

Attachments

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